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## 1979 CIA report warned of Israeli recruiting attempts

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PARIS - The Central Intelligence Agency, in a 47-page study, had warned the US intelligence community about systematic Israeli attempts to recruit agents from friendly countries, including the United States.

In the study, dated 1979 and apparently one of a series the CIA issues on foreign intelligence services, Israeli intelligence was clearly depicted as dangerous competition of which American agents needed to be wary, rather than as a helpful ally. The booklet cites a number of examples of Israeli attempts to recruit Americans with access to classified US data.

Other such CIA studies of the intelligence services of friendly countries have not fallen into the public domain so it is hard to tell whether the CIA also warns the US intelligence community about the penetration attempts of other allies. But the matter-of-fact tone of the publication about Israel makes it seem likely that other secret CIA studies probably do put US agents on their guards against naive assumptions that allies do not spy on one another.

The CIA study on Israel was among the large stacks of classified US papers found by the Iranian students who took over the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979 and held hostage many members of the staff. The Iranians published it as the centerpiece of the 11th volume in a still-continuing publication program of secret US documents.

An installment of a series the Globe ran in early 1982 was devoted to the CIA's detailed history and analysis of Israeli intelligence objectives and methods.

The CIA listed the first priority of Israeli intelligence as Arab capabilities and intentions toward Israel and Soviet activities in that regard. But the second and third categories of Israeli interests were given as "(2) collection of information on secret US policy or decisions, if any, concerning Israel (3) collection of scientific intelligence in the US and other developed countries."

In December 1985, the New York Times quoted Israeli sources as saying that Jonathan Jay Pollard had provided information on

Arab military forces, Soviet weapons in the Arab world, and unspecified "sensitive Israeli defense matters" - an expression that could well cover US intelligence on Israel. Pollard reportedly gave confidential materials from the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean about its joint maneuvers with Egypt.

The CIA study spoke of Israeli intelligence's heavy dependence on foreign Jewish communities and organizations for recruiting of agents and as general sources of information. "There have been several cases where attempted recruitments of Americans of the Jewish faith have been rejected and reported to US authorities," it said.

While the CIA said that "the recruitment of gentiles is comparatively rare," it listed several incidents that appeared to involve attempts to do so. The US consulate general in Jerusalem is described by the CIA as a special target for Israeli penetration efforts.

The US consulate in Jerusalem is the only consulate that reports directly to the State Department, instead of to the local US embassy. It is in charge of US relations with the Israeli-controlled West Bank and has often been accused by Israelis of being a pro-Palestinian haven for State Department Arabists. But the report shows that Israel also spies on the US embassy in Tel Aviv.

Technological espionage was another category of Israeli intelligence gathering in the west described by the CIA: "The Israelis devote a considerable portion of their covert operations to obtaining scientific and technical intelligence. This had included attempts to penetrate certain classified defense projects in the United States and other Western nations."

The CIA warned that the Israelis have been known to present themselves as agents of NATO countries when recruiting Western Europeans.

In a section that is evidently a special warning to American visitors to Israel, the CIA study said

that Israeli intelligence personnel "are experts at entering private quarters where they go through visitors' luggage and personal papers. Special portable camera equipment is used for this purpose." Israeli intelligence, the CIA

said, has "concealed radio transmitters in phonograph cases, in the false bottoms of coffee cans, and in the bottoms of portable cooking stoves which can be used as stoves without removing the communication equipment."

It notes that "if a person under surveillance stops to use a public telephone, the surveillance team reports the situation to the control center which immediately notifies the telephone tapping unit and an attempt is made to intercept the call."

In another passage, the CIA said that "since all foreigners, regardless of nationality or religion, including Jews, are considered potential threats to the state of Israel," Israeli counterintelligence "employs a large number of informants among local Israelis who are in contact with foreigners by reason of their employment or activities. In this category are bartenders, hotel clerks, telephone operators, secretaries, taxi drivers, caterers, maids, prostitutes, chauffeurs and waiters. It also includes trade unionists, scientists, and others in the educational field."

The implication that the United States was also spying on Israel seems inescapable. According to a concluding note on sources, the CIA study said that "most of the information in this publication has been derived from a variety of sources, including covert assets of the Central Intelligence Agency," as well as Israeli and Pentagon publications.

One of the original explanations given for the Pollard case was that he was an "asset" of a faction of Israeli intelligence working in competition and without the knowledge of other elements in the Israeli intelligence community. One of the recurrent themes of the CIA study was the deliberate design of a variety of competing Israeli intelligence operations encourage rivalry and to provide cross-checking of information gathered.